

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 DLOS-07 L-03 H-03

EB-11 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 NSAE-00

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JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 SCI-06 /222 R

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TO USMISSION BERLIN PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118381

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:EFIS, PBOR, OCON, XN, XP, US

SUBJECT: FISHERIES AND LOS

REFS: (A) STATE 166742 NOTAL; (B) STATE 167508 NOTAL;

(C) STATE A-9201 NOTAL; (D) STATE A-582 NOTAL

1. AMBASSADOR REQUESTED DELIVER NOTE ASAP TO FOREIGN MINISTER AS BELOW. PURPOSE IS TO ATTEMPT RESOLVE FISHING PROBLEMS OFF US COAST AND BLUNT PUSH FOR ENACTMENT 200 MILE LEGISLATION, AND TO ENHANCE OUR POSITION TO NEGOTIATE SUCCESSFULLY AT LOS CONFERENCE.

2. ALL ACTION ADDRESSEES EXCEPT REYKJAVIK: COMPLIMENTARY OPENING:
SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN AT THE THIRD U.N. LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. IT IS THE GREAT DESIRE OF THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE THOSE NEGOTIATIONS RESULT IN THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF A NEW LAW OF THE SEA TREATY WHICH WILL DEAL COMPREHENSIVELY WITH A HOST OF OCEAN ISSUES. AT THE PRESENT TIME, HOWEVER, THE CONTINUING PROBLEMS OF FISHERIES OFF THE COASTS OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE CREATED A STRONG POPULAR SENTIMENT IN THE UNITED STATES FOR A UNILATERAL SOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS BY EXTENDING U.S. JURISDICTION OVER FISHERIES. PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO THIS END HAS BEEN INTRODUCED BY MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND HAS STRONG SUPPORT. PASSAGE OF SUCH LEGIS-

LATION WOULD IMPOSE A SEVERE HANDICAP ON THE POSSIBILITY OF OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE OF RESOLVING LAW OF THE SEA PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO FISHERIES AND OTHER MATTERS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. BECAUSE OF (COUNTRY NAME) INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES, THE USG BELIEVES THAT INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO RESOLVE FISHERIES PROBLEMS IS OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL
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COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES HAS BEGUN IN HALIFAX AND THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE WILL CONVENE LATER THIS MONTH. A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE COMMISSION MEETING WOULD ASSIST IN MODERATING THE DEMANDS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION AND WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO FISHERIES AND OTHER OCEAN PROBLEMS ARE POSSIBLE. A FAILURE OF THE COMMISSION MEETING WOULD HAVE MOST SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE LAW

OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

THE COMMISSION MADE REMARKABLE PROGRESS AT ITS SPECIAL MEETING LAST OCTOBER. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE STILL SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING IT AT THIS TIME. ONE WILL BE TO SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENT THE OCTOBER DECISION TO FURTHER REDUCE CATCHES IN THE REGION OFF THE U.S. COAST IN 1975. IN ADOPTING THE NEW QUOTAS IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE LONG-STANDING BUT NOW HARD-PRESSED COASTAL FISHERIES WILL CONTINUE THEIR REBUILDING TOWARD ECONOMIC VITALITY. HOWEVER, YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER, WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO AMERICAN FISHERMEN, REMAINS IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY REQUIRING FURTHER MAJOR STEPS TO PROTECT IT. ANOTHER MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT STRENGTHENING OF THE SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE OCTOBER DECISIONS ARE FULFILLED. THE USG TRUSTS THAT THE (COUNTRY NAME) DELEGATION HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REACH SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ON THESE PROBLEMS AND THE MANY OTHER IMPORTANT TASKS FACING THE COMMISSION.

THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE OTHER NATIONS CONCERNED TO ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THESE FISHERIES PROBLEMS. THIS IS ESSENTIAL NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF PRESENT PROBLEMS BUT ALSO TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS ARE ABLE TO USE THE OCEANS IN HARMONY AND REAP THE BENEFITS OF MARINE RESOURCES AS A RESULT OF THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING.

3. FOR MOSCOW AND TOKYO: ADD FOLLOWING BEFORE FINAL PARAGRAPH:

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THE UNITED STATES IS NO LESS CONCERNED ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE FISHERIES IN THE NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN AND EASTERN BEING SEA. THERE IS SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT IMPORTANT FISHERY RESOURCES IN THIS AREA ARE BEING OVERFISHED AND ARE CONSEQUENTLY IN DANGER OF DEPLETION. A CURRENT MAJOR PROBLEM IS THAT OF THE SERIOUS DECLINE IN THE ABUNDANCE OF HALIBUT IN THE AREA BROUGHT ABOUT BY LARGE INCIDENTAL CATCHES TAKEN IN TRAWLING FOR OTHER SPECIES. THE UNITED STATES IS HOPEFUL THAT EARLY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED WILL RESULT IN FURTHER AND MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HALIBUT.

4. FOR REYKJAVIK: COMPLIMENTARY OPENING:

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE RESULTED FROM OVERFISHING AND HAS BEGUN THE REBUILDING OF THE DEPLETED STOCKS. NEVERTHELESS, AS THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION COMMENCES, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEMS STILL CONFRONTING AMERICAN FISHERMEN IN THE REGION OFF OUR COAST AND TRUSTS THAT THE COMMISSION WILL TAKE DECISIVE ACTION TO FURTHER THE CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND TO STRENGTHEN THE SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT. THE USG IS CONFIDENT THAT OUR DELEGATIONS WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER CLOSELY TO ENSURE THAT THE MEETING IS A SUCCESS.
COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING.

5. FOR OTTAWA: IN VIEW OF COMMONALITY OF US AND CANADIAN INTERESTS IN THESE FISHERIES MATTERS, PROVIDE COPY OF ADDITIONAL TEXT TO JAPAN AND SOVIET UNION AND INFORM THAT APPROACH TO ICELAND IS STRICTLY IN TERMS OF ICNAF.

6. ICNAF MEETING AT HALIFAX JUNE 4-15. BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON ICNAF IN REFS A-D MAY BE DRAWN UPON IN MAKING REPRESENTATION. LOS GUIDANCE SHOULD ALSO BE UTILIZED AS APPROPRIATE. REPORT HOST GOVERNMENT REACTIONS ASAP, INFO COPENHAGEN FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE AND HALIFAX BY POUCH. KISSINGER
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